

D2 Jul 23 18. (Amended) A method of treating symptoms associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment [thereof], comprising administering to the patient [an] a rheumatoid arthritis symptoms treating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period of at least 2 weeks[, an erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof].

D3 Jul 24 20. (Amended) A method of ameliorating a disease activity of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such amelioration [thereof], comprising administering to the patient [an] a rheumatoid arthritis disease activity ameliorating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period of at least 2 weeks[, an erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof].

D4 22. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the erythropoietin[, erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof,] is of recombinant origin.

D5 24. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the erythropoietin[, erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof,] is of recombinant origin.

D6 26. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the erythropoietin[, erythropoietin derivative, erythropoietin mutant or fragments thereof,] is of recombinant